



**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN
March 25, 2009**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Soth called the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children (CYC) to order at 5:05 p.m., at the Parks, Recreation and Marine administration building's large conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Present: Mary Soth, Early Childhood Development, Co-Chair

Ana Mora, 9th District Youth, Co Vice-Chair

Rebecca Turrentine, Education, Co Vice-Chair

Leslie Barnes, 1st District Youth

Bryant Darron, 2nd District Youth

Michael Diaz, 5th District Youth

Helen Ingram, Education

Marty Isozaki, Job Training

Jeanetta McAlpin, Social Services

Megan McDonnell, 3rd District Youth

Jon Meyer, LBUSD Board of Education

Victor Perez, Health

Jessica Quintana, Parent

Marc Rothenberg, Juvenile Justice

Stephanie Viramontes, 7th District Youth

Absent: Excused – Chelsii Summerville, 4th District Youth, Co-Chair

VACANT, 6th District Youth

VACANT, Youth Enrichment

VACANT, 8th District Youth

Staff: Joe Batarse, Recreation Superintendent, Community Recreation Services,
Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Ardige Pittman, Clerical Support, Community Recreation Services,
Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Phil T. Hester, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Guests: Third District City Councilmember, Gary DeLong
Francisco Martinez, Centro CHA
Valerie, Centro CHA
Jorge Rivera, LB Unity Festival

Co-Chair Soth welcomed newly appointed commissioner, Bryant Darron to the Commission on Youth and Children. Commissioner Darron represents that Second District and provided a brief biography.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Darron to approve the February 25, 2009 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMENTS: TIME GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION. EACH PERSON WILL BE ALLOWED 3 MINUTES UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE COMMISSION

There were no public comments

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – 3RD DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER, GARY DELONG

Councilmember DeLong stated that he assumed office in July 2006 and provided a description of the communities that he represents. Councilmember DeLong informed that the CYC on that some of his priorities include constituent services and water quality. In addition, Councilmember DeLong informed the CYC that he looks for every opportunity to engage youth. In regards to the budget, he stated that one of the major concerns of the City Council is the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department and the programs that services youth. He also encourages youth to attend City Council meetings to express their concerns and/or issues.

- Councilmember DeLong answered questions from several commissioners regarding youth, the city's budget and city ordinances.
- Councilmember DeLong committed to including the CYC in all issues that pertains to youth and families.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

A. Monthly Citywide Services Report to Commission

Mr. Batarse reported that the monthly report was included in the agenda packet.

VI. CO-CHAIRS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

A. Co-Chair Soth

Co-Chair Soth reported that she attended sessions of the Reads One Book program that was held at the Sierra Club and the Carpenter Center. Co-Chair Soth also attended the 6th Annual Early Child Education Symposium, where she had the opportunity to hear Keynote Speaker Linda Brault discuss children with challenging behavior. In addition, Co-Chair Soth reported that she attended an informal coffee

hour, where Senator Rod Wright, Assemblyman Warren Furutani, and Congresswoman Laura Richardson were in attendance.

B. Co-Chair Summerville

Co-Chair Summerville was not present to report.

VII. REPORTS

A. Standing Committees

1. **Executive Committee** Co-Chairs Soth and Summerville, Co Vice-Chairs Turrentine and Mora, Commissioner Meyer

Note: The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8 at 4:00 p.m. in Joe Batarse's office at Recreation Golf Course (5001 Deukmejian Drive, Long Beach, 90804).

Co-Chair Soth reported that Dr. Bill Crampton of ReThinking Long Beach attended the Executive Committee meeting and provided a CD of the database that he is working on. The CD will be sent to Becki Nadybal to get her feedback on how the database can be used as part of the Profile research.

B. Special Committees

1. **Long Beach Youth Fund Committee** - Commissioners Ingram, McAlpin, Mora, Summerville, Darron, McDonnell, Barnes, Viramontes, and Diaz

Commissioner Ingram reported that the Long Beach Youth Fund Committee met to discuss the guidelines. The Committee decided that the funding process would not begin until October 2009 due to time constraints.

The Committee's next meeting will be held on April 22 at 4:00 p.m., where they plan to review the guidelines on accountability.

2. **Profile Committee** Commissioners Soth, Summerville, Mora, McAlpin

Co-Chair Soth stated that Becki Nadybal will be attending the April 8 Executive Committee meeting to make a report. She invited commissioners to serve on the Profile Committee.

Recommended Action: Review and approve letter to Bryan Rogers of the Workforce Development Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Turrentine and seconded by Commissioner Darron to approve the Recommended Action. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Standing Item Reports

1. District Level Youth Advisory Councils - Report on DLYAC meetings

Commissioner McDonnell reported that the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council met to discuss their service project. They are focusing on working with Friends of the Colorado Lagoon.

Commissioner Diaz reported that the Fifth District Youth Advisory Council met to fine tune their lake cleanup on Saturday, April 4. In addition, they discussed conducting another tree inventory in May.

At this time, Co-Chair Soth reordered the agenda to bring forth Agenda Item IX.A.

A. Winter Celebration Presentation by Centro CHA

Youth Coordinator for Centro CHA, Francisco Martinez reported that approximately \$2,000 was received through the Long Beach Youth Fund and approximately \$500 was raised from business contributions to host the Winter Celebration. Mr. Martinez gave a presentation on what took place during the Winter Celebration. On behalf of youth, families, and Centro CHA, Mr. Martinez thanked the CYC for funding the event.

At this time, the CYC continued with Agenda Item C.1.

Commissioner Viramontes reported that she has been unsuccessful in contacting the Seventh District office. Staff will assist Commissioner Viramontes in trying to get in touch with a representative of the Seventh District office.

Commissioner Mora reported that the Ninth District Youth Advisory Council held a tree planting event around the Coolidge Park neighborhood, where approximately 40 trees were planted. Volunteers included Congresswoman Laura Richardson and students from Jordan High School, Millikan High School, Monroe Middle School, and California State University Long Beach

2. Long Beach GRIP Project Advisory Council - Commissioners Rothenberg, Summerville, McDonnell

Commissioner Rothenberg reported that the GRIP Advisory Council did not meet in March.

D. Non-Committee Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Rothenberg reported that he is a member of the Long Beach Bar Association Scholarship Committee and is happy to report that Commissioner Diaz was one of the recipients of a scholarship.

Commissioner McAlpin reported that she attended a non-violence event that was well attended and that the youth were very much engaged. She informed the CYC that all of the youth in attendance stated that although they were diverse, they were also

divided by ethnicity on campus. Commissioner McAlpin would like the CYC to address this issue in some form.

Commissioner Quintana reported that the California Endowment selected the central Long Beach area for its 10-year strategic initiative, Building Healthy Communities.

At this time, Co-Chair Soth reordered the agenda to bring forth Agenda Item IX.B.

A. Long Beach Unity Festival

Jorge Rivera provided a history on the festival. He stated that the Long Beach Unity Festival is held as an attempt to unify the Long Beach community and is completely operated by volunteers. The festival is held at the end of the year and is centered on artistic expression to give youth a voice to express themselves. Mr. Rivera reported that a Long Beach Unity 5K walk has been added to the beginning of the festival as an attempt to raise funds.

Commissioner Rothenberg made a motion to endorse the Long Beach Unity Festival, which was seconded by Commissioner Darron. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time the CYC continued with Agenda Item VIII.A.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CYC Retreat Notes

Co-Chair Soth wanted to know if there were any comments or questions regarding the retreat summary.

B. Commission on Youth and Children Questionnaire

Co-Chair Soth would like staff to send the CYC questionnaire to the newly appointed commissioners.

C. Letter to Mayor Foster

Co-Chair Soth distributed a draft of the letter to Mayor Foster.

Recommended Action: Review and approve letter to Mayor Foster.

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Barnes to approve the Recommended Action.

Commissioner Turrentine noted a correction.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

B. Winter Celebration Presentation by Centro CHA

This item was previously discussed.

C. Long Beach Unity Festival

This item was previously discussed.

D. Attendance at Citywide Events

Co-Chair Soth stated that there are a variety of events that take place throughout the city in which she would like to see the CYC make an effort to send some of the youth commissioners to the events. She would like to see City Councilmembers invite youth commissioners as their guests to some of these events and to identify what those events might be.

Recommended Action: Seek/request elected officials to extend an invitation to the Commission on Youth and Children for citywide events.

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to approve the Recommended Action, as well as to develop a list of events and to seek sponsorship. The motion passed unanimously.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Co-Chair Soth adjourned at 6:40 p.m. to the next meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

This information is available in an alternative format by request to
Jane Grobaty at (562) 570-3232.

The City of Long Beach intends to provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a special accommodation is desired, please call Ardige Pittman, 48 hours prior to the meeting, at (562) 570-4782.

